

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 PRS-01 H-02 CIAE-00

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S/ PRS: CBRAY (INFO) AF/ P: GAFRIEDMAN

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H: KFOLGER (INFO) EUR/ P: ESAVEAGE

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R 262039 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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BEIRUT ALSO POUCH BAGHDAD
KUWAIT ALSO POUCH SANA'A

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL

EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING

APRIL 26, 1973:

Q. IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME SINCE THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN KHARTOUM. IS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STILL SATISFIED THAT THE SUDANESE AUTHORITIES PLAN TO PROSECUTE THE MEN INVOLVED?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION STANDS.
I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK BEFORE I ASSAYED AN ANSWER.

Q. CHARLES, THERE'S A REPORT IN AN ISRAELI PAPER TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES TURNED OVER TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHS OF EGYPT WHICH ESTABLISHED THE TRANSFER OF LIBYAN PLANES TO EGYPT.

A. THAT'S NOT TRUE.

Q. HAVE THE ISRAELIS PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE TO THE UNITED STATES?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I'LL LOOK INTO THAT.

Q. WHAT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE STATE OF THESE LIBYAN AIRCRAFT. DO WE HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO EGYPT?

A. I WILL STILL MAINTAIN THIS WEEK, AS I DID HERE LAST WEEK, THAT THIS IS A MATTER, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AT LEAST, WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT CONCERNED WITH THE MOVEMENT OF ARMS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD?
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A. WE HAVE A CONTINUING CONCERN WITH RESPECT TO THE MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I'M SIMPLY SAYING IN THIS RESPECT THAT THIS SEEMS TO ME TO BE SOMETHING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SHOULD ADDRESS.

Q. AS A GENERAL QUESTION, DO WE PROVIDE INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES TO THE ISRAELIS?

A. THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I WOULD COMMENT ON HERE.

Q. IS YOUR RELUCTANCE TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS OVER THE PAST WEEK OR TEN DAYS BASED ON OFFICIAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT?

A. NO COMMENT.

Q. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, A FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED NO EVIDENCE OF TRANSFER OF PLANES. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT STATEMENT?

A. NO COMMENT.

Q. HAVE WE CONSULTED WITH THEM IN ANY WAY?

A. NO COMMENT. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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